

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously amended) A process for extracting an organic component from botanical material, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) selecting the botanical material from a plant of the group consisting of rosemary, sage, hyssop, oregano, thyme, basil, marjoram, spearmint, dittany, and lavender;
  - (b) contacting the botanical material in a vessel with a blend of tetrafluoroethane and at least one organic solvent selected from the group consisting of acetone, ethanol, ethylene chloride, isopropanol, methanol, methylene chloride, and propylene glycol to dissolve the organic component in the solvent blend;
  - (c) removing the remaining botanical material from the solution of the organic component and the solvent blend; and
  - (d) removing the solvent blend to isolate a liquid, oily product containing the organic component which has antioxidant activity that is improved over an organic component extracted in the absence of the organic solvent.
2. (Previously canceled) The process of claim 1, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of acetone, ethanol, ethylene chloride, hexane, isopropanol, methanol, methylene chloride, and propylene glycol.
3. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the solvent blend comprises from between about 60% to about 95% tetrafluoroethane.
4. (Original) The process of claim 3, wherein the solvent blend comprises tetrafluoroethane and at least two organic solvents.
5. (Previously amended) The process of claim 4, wherein the organic solvents are selected from the group consisting of acetone and methanol.
6. (Original) The process of claim 5, wherein the solvent blend comprises between about 70% and about 85% tetrafluoroethane, between about 1% and about 25% acetone, and

between about 1% and about 25% methanol.

7. (Original) The process of claim 3, wherein the solvent blend comprises between about 70% and about 95% tetrafluoroethane and the organic solvent is acetone.
8. (Original) The process of claim 3, wherein the solvent blend comprises between about 70% and about 90% tetrafluoroethane and the organic solvent is methanol.
9. (Canceled) The process of claim 3, wherein the solvent blend comprises between about 70% and about 90% tetrafluoroethane and the organic solvent is hexane.
10. (Previously amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the organic component includes an antioxidant.
11. (Currently canceled) The process of claim 10, wherein the organic component includes organic molecules having polarity similar to antioxidants.
12. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the step of removing the solvent blend includes allowing the tetrafluoroethane to be reclaimed.
13. (Canceled) A process for extracting molecules having polarity substantially similar to antioxidants from botanical material, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) contacting the botanical material in a vessel with a blend of tetrafluoroethane and at least one organic solvent to dissolve the molecules in the solvent blend;
  - (b) removing the remaining botanical material from the solution of the molecules and the solvent blend; and
  - (c) removing the solvent blend to isolate a liquid, oily product containing the molecules.
14. (Canceled) A process for extracting an organic component from botanical material, comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting the botanical material in a vessel with a blend of tetrafluoroethane and at least one organic solvent to dissolve the organic component in the solvent blend;
  - (b) removing the remaining botanical material from the solution of the organic component and the solvent blend; and
  - (c) removing the solvent blend to isolate a liquid, oily product containing the organic component which has antioxidant activity that is improved over a component extracted in the absence of the organic solvent.
15. (Previously amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the liquid, oily product is soluble in an edible oil.
16. (Canceled) The process of claim 14, wherein the botanical material is at least one species selected from the family Labiatae.
17. (Canceled) The process of claim 14, wherein the botanical material is *Rosemarinus officinalis*.
18. (Previously canceled) A preservative for foods and animal feedstuffs, comprising a mixture of the liquid, oily product obtained from the process of claim 1 and an edible oil.
19. (Previously canceled) An orally administered antioxidant for humans and animals, comprising a mixture of the liquid, oily product obtained from the process of claim 1 and an edible carrier.
20. (Previously amended) A preservative for foods and animal feedstuffs, comprising a mixture of an edible oil and a liquid, oily product obtained from a solvent extraction process, the extraction process comprising the steps of:
- (a) identifying a botanical material from a plant of the group consisting of rosemary, sage, hyssop, oregano, thyme, basil, marjoram, spearmint, dittany, and lavender;

- (b) contacting the botanical material in a vessel with a blend of tetrafluoroethane and at least one organic solvent selected from the group consisting of acetone, ethanol, ethylene chloride, isopropanol, methanol, methylene chloride, and propylene glycol to dissolve the organic component in the solvent blend;
  - (c) removing the remaining botanical material from the solution of the organic component and the solvent blend; and
  - (d) removing the solvent blend to isolate the liquid, oily product containing the organic component which has antioxidant activity that is improved over an organic component extracted in the absence of the organic solvent.
21. (Previously added) The preservative of claim 20 that may be orally administered and in an edible carrier as an antioxidant for humans and animals.
22. (Previously amended) A process for extracting an antioxidant component from botanical material, comprising the steps of:
- (a) selecting the botanical material from a plant of the family Labiatae that produces one or more antioxidant compounds selected from the group consisting of carnosol and carnosic acid;
  - (b) contacting the botanical material in a vessel with a blend of tetrafluoroethane and at least one organic solvent selected from the group consisting of acetone, ethanol, ethylene chloride, isopropanol, methanol, methylene chloride, and propylene glycol to dissolve the antioxidant component in the solvent blend;
  - (c) removing the remaining botanical material from the solution of the antioxidant component and the solvent blend; and
  - (d) removing the solvent blend to isolate a liquid, oily product containing the antioxidant component which has antioxidant activity that is improved over an antioxidant component extracted in the absence of the organic solvent.